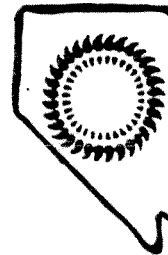


NEVADA CLIMATE SUMMARY



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SYNOPSIS

While the Northern 1/3 of Nevada was wetter than normal some areas in the South had no precipitation this month. At one end of the scale Upper Incline at Tahoe had 10.56" and 138" of snowfall, with a 4 & 1/2 foot snowpack at month's end. 2.32" and 29" of snow came on the 25th. The 138" total is only 1" lower than the State record of 139" set at nearby Daggett Pass in February 1969. On the dry end of the precipitation gage stick Silver Peak, Cottonwood Cove, Las Vegas Spring Valley, and Boulder Beach were bone dry. In the north January was really a Jeckyll-Hyde story, with the congenial Dr. bringing a quiet, mild, and dry first 1/2 of the month, while the devious Mr. Hyde held sway over a wet last 1/2 of January.

Water Year precipitation is above normal in all but the East and South. Even in the South, upstream areas of the Colorado River that bring water into Lake Mead, are above normal.

TEMPERATURE

Temperatures were above normal in all but the extreme North, where they were a little below the usual. In general, departures were in the 1-4 degrees above normal range, with 4 & 1/2+ at Reno and 4+ at Winnemucca. Las Vegas was +3 degrees.

Extreme records were not approached as Colorado River locations rose into the high 70's, with well below zero readings in the Northeast. For example, Charleston fell to -22, Jarbidge -15, Boies Ranch and Ruth -14, and Deeth -13. Also, Spring Valley State Park near Pioche had -21. Due to a dominant high pressure ridge the monthly highs came the first two weeks of January with lows the second half of the month.

In addition to the deluge at Upper Incline (7500'), a new record was set for January snowfall at Incline (6400') with 90" of snowfall and 8.51" of precipitation. Records began in 1968. Other wet spots were Verdi 7.25", Daggett Pass 6.78", Genoa 6.60", Glenbrook 6.31" and Clover Valley (near Wells) 6.49". In addition, the 62" of snow reported by Sharon Rhoads at Tuscarora was a January record and

caused several days of road closures. Nearby Jarbidge had 5.43" and 49" of snowfall, while Jarbidge Diamond A Ranch, several miles Northwest of the town, had only 3.17" and 39" of snowfall. Many years of record have been kept in the town area in the bottom of a deep canyon, so normals there cannot be used for the drier mesa location of the Diamond A Ranch.

Other dry spots in addition to those mentioned earlier, were Boulder City and Montezuma .01, Candelaria .04, and Gold Point .06".

SUNSHINE, WIND & EVAPORATION

Sun hours were above normal in the South and near normal in the North, even with a cloudy second half of the month. Wind was below normal during the first half of January, but above normal after. Gusts to 88mph on the 16th in Minden blew over large trees, knocked down fences and caused several thousands of dollars damage. A week later Ted Grant at the Hualapai Ranch north of Gerlach recorded 85 mph.

Evaporation readings were only kept in the ice free South, but they were above normal at Overton and Boulder City.

NOTE: Ten years ago during February 1986, one of the most intense and devastating series of storms ever to hit Nevada caused extreme damage and floods in the Far West. From February 12 - 20 a record 18.00" fell at Daggett Pass, 17.09" at Incline, 9.77" at Glenbrook and 7.41" at Virginia City. Carson City had 91% of the average annual precipitation for that location! At 8500 foot Tahoe Meadows (near Incline) 36.87" fell during February 1986 for the Nevada record for one month.

NOTE 2: Nevada's Snowiest Locations (Daily Manned Climate Stations)

Greatest 24 hour snowfall
38" Incline (6500') February 7-8, 1985.

Greatest 1 month snowfall
139" Daggett Pass (7400') February 1969*

Greatest season snowfall
412" Daggett Pass February 1968-69

* It is estimated that 175-200" of snow fell at 8500' Tahoe Meadows during the 9 day storm of February 12-20, 1986.

John W. James
State Climatologist

Dave Secrist has spent most of his 60 plus years with livestock. For the past several years he has been Ranch Manager for the Salmon Falls Cattleman's Association, which since 1947 has owned a piece of the ranch owned by the once powerful Utah Construction Company. At its peak earlier this century Utah Construction Company ran 42,000 sheep and 50,000 head of cattle plus 3000 horses, with 250 cowboys year-round and more in Summer. They owned or leased 3 million acres of land. The present operation employs a 3 man crew in Winter and 6 in Summer, with a couple dozen more to harvest and ship in the Fall, All this on "only" 276,000 acres.

In addition to his ranch duties Dave is one of Nevada's premier volunteer weather observers. With occasional help from his wife Jane (a Home Economics teacher at Jackpot High School, 7 miles north) he has kept temperature and precipitation readings for the State Climate Office since August 1990. Dave has never missed a day since then! This despite -37 in December 1990, and a record August low of 10° in August 1992. The high that day (26th) was 80°! Dave is filling some very historic shoes as San Jacinto weather observer, as a weather station located here from 1904-47 recorded -50 in January 1937 for Nevada's still standing all time low. Hopefully the Secrist's won't have to live through that, at 5200' in this location in the bottom of the Salmon Creek Falls Valley. However, their -60 alcohol minimum thermometer can handle it if need be!

Many thanks Dave for being one of Nevada's best weather observers!

